

# Review Fluoride Limit Proposals for AAC Plant

By Mel Ruder

Proposed fluoride emission limit for the Anaconda Aluminum Co. plant of 864 pounds per day has continued endorsement of Benjamin F. Wake, director of air pollution control for the Montana State Department of Health.

The present AAC emissions

are considered 4,500 to 5,000 pounds per day down from 7,500. Proposed by AAC is continued reduction to 3,500 in 1971 and 2,500 in 1972.

Wake told the Montana Air Pollution Advisory Council Tuesday in Helena about the 864 pounds a day limit: "It's a good regulation," and will be considered by the Board of

Health at their July 10 meeting for adoption.

Wake felt the only acceptable change would be to extend compliance a year to June 30, 1973 instead of June 30, 1972.

The air pollution control director felt that technical capability was available to reduce fluoride emission at the Anaconda Aluminum Co. plant to 864 pounds per day into the atmosphere (.04 of a pound per hour for each of the 600 pots at the Columbia Falls plant.)

Referring to the May 21 hearing by the Board of Health in Helena, he said "nothing productive what-so-ever was presented by the aluminum people."

He also said: "Everybody says their operation is marginal. I've heard this for 20 years ever since I've been in this work." There was comment that the Hoerner-Waldorf people two years ago had the attitude of being forced out of business, and there had been a great change. Now they were

complying with pollution control regulations, and are gracious about it.

Frank J. Laird, Jr., council member and head of the Anaconda Company environmental control division, remarked: "No aluminum plant in the United States as far as I know can comply with the proposed Montana standard of 864 pounds fluoride emission (for 600 pots)."

Wake referred to variance provisions of the Montana Clean Air Act, which permitted firms that were attempting to meet standards to gain time extensions.

Wake predicted it would likely be five years before Anaconda Aluminum Co. would comply with clean air regulations, and meanwhile the aluminum industry is learning more about techniques and responsibilities.

He referred to Columbia Falls as "a captive community." This brought objection from Mel Ruder, a member of the advisory council.

Ruder replied that Anaconda doesn't wave a "big stick" in the community, and Columbia Falls was not a one-industry town. He referred to four local lumber mills that employ 600 men.

Ruder said he favored control of fluoride emissions, and told of his ponderosa pine and others in the community that were damaged. He added: "If the area didn't have trees," he wouldn't live here.

Another remark was that Wake and the council should be aware of the situation where chambers of commerce, labor unions and the Flathead generally appeared to feel the proposed emission standards for the AAC plant were unfair. There isn't the reaction by the public that Hoerner-Waldorf experienced in Missoula.

Dr. John S. Anderson, executive officer for the State Department of Health, remarked that Montana is in the forefront in fluoride emission controls. Wake added that Montana wasn't first in anything else regarding pollution control.

In conversation he commented that Oregon and Washington controls didn't amount to much.

Variance requests at the July 10 Board of Health meeting include that of Anaconda Wire and Cable Co. which has a casting facility adjacent to Anaconda Aluminum Co.

Delay is being asked in reducing dense plumes of white smoke from stacks in the rod mill furnace. This includes hydrochloric acid, aluminum chloride and probably some free chlorine, which doesn't stay free for long.

Laird said the company was in process of installing equipment which would result in air pollution control compliance, and that a variance was being asked to permit time for equipment arrival and installation.

The Tuesday meeting was underway at 9:15 a.m. recessed at noon, resumed at 1:20 p.m. and adjourned just before 3 p.m. Considerable discussion involved SO<sub>2</sub>, not a Flathead problem, and there was a slide presentation by Waldorf-Hoerner on their achievements that lasted 45 minutes.

Of particular interest to the Flathead was Wake complimenting Plum Creek Lum-

reach of adequate control." He felt part of the problem is more careful operation, and that just equipment wouldn't eliminate the smoke.

He praised Jack Dodd, Whitefish, air pollution control observer in the Flathead for being "very conscientious."

In a brief review of variance requests that will be considered by the Board of Health July 10, Wake said he would not recommend at this time the variation (delay) asked by Dupuis Lumber Co., Polson, and Thompson Falls Lumber Co., both Pack River owned

He said these mills had ample time to comply and that firms requesting variances (or in effect more time to comply) should show where they are in process of installing equipment to reduce pollution.

In commenting on the small approximately 5,500 barrel Phillips Petroleum Co. refinery in Great Falls, Wake said "literally the Great Falls plant stinks." He added there were complaints, and that the Phillips plant needs to do some fundamental work in vapor, recovery and odor control.

On the otherhand the state had other small refineries at such locations as Kevin, where there aren't complaints, and also lack of pollution bothering people.

Lewis J. D. Maxson, advisory council member from Missoula, wondered if basis of small refinery compliance couldn't be from the standpoint of population affected, if this were legal.

R. A. Dightman, Helena, Montana's federal meteorologist in charge, noted that pollution was a world-wide problem, and there was "Only just so much air."

The meeting saw Wake comment on the National Air Pollution Control Administration (federal funded) study underway in and near Glacier National Park. He said: "No doubt damage will be found in Glacier National Park, if fluoride emissions are at 1969 levels."

He termed the study in and near Glacier as "worthwhile."

HUNGRY HORSE NEWS, FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1970

trol.

In conversation he commented that Oregon and Washington controls didn't amount to much.

Variance requests at the July 10 Board of Health meeting include that of Anaconda Wire and Cable Co. which has a casting facility adjacent to Anaconda Aluminum Co.

Delay is being asked in reducing dense plumes of white smoke from stacks in the rod mill furnace. This includes hydrochloric acid, aluminum chloride and probably some free chlorine, which doesn't stay free for long.

Laird said the company was in process of installing equipment which would result in air pollution control compliance, and that a variance was being asked to permit time for equipment arrival and installation.

The Tuesday meeting was underway at 9:15 a.m. recessed at noon, resumed at 1:20 p.m. and adjourned just before 3 p.m. Considerable discussion involved SO<sub>2</sub>, not a Flathead problem, and there was a slide presentation by Waldorf-Hoerner on their achievements that lasted 45 minutes.

Of particular interest to the Flathead was Wake complimenting Plum Creek Lumber Co. for "effective elimination" of sawmill and plywood plant smoke.

He added that some of the other Flathead mills namely Superior Buildings, Stoltze Land and Lumber Co. and Rocky Mountain" were within

small approximately 5,500 barrel Phillips Petroleum Co. refinery in Great Falls. Wake said "literally the Great Falls plant stinks." He added there were complaints, and that the Phillips plant needs to do some fundamental work in vapor, recovery and odor control.

On the otherhand the state had other small refineries at such locations as Kevin, where there aren't complaints, and also lack of pollution bothering people.

Lewis J. D. Maxson, advisory council member from Missoula, wondered if basis of small refinery compliance couldn't be from the standpoint of population affected, if this were legal.

R. A. Dightman, Helena, Montana's federal meteorologist in charge, noted that pollution was a world-wide problem, and there was "Only just so much air."

The meeting saw Wake comment on the National Air Pollution Control Administration (federal funded) study underway in and near Glacier National Park. He said: "No doubt damage will be found in Glacier National Park, if fluoride emissions are at 1969 levels."

He termed the study in and near Glacier as "worthwhile."

At the start of the meeting, Wake said that Montana's air pollution control budget was continuing about \$151,000 for the 1970-71 fiscal year with about \$85,000 from federal sources. There is provision for providing more manpower to help achieve controls in northwestern Montana.

Dr. Kenneth J. Lampert, Missoula's air pollution control officer, mentioned that the time was near when his area would no longer have a tepee burner. This is being achieved as a result of the particle board plant which would utilize the waste formerly burned.

Presiding at the meeting was Barry D. Nolan, Billings oil industry executive, who is knowledgeable on air pollution control topics.

News reporter present for the whole session was Don Bartsch, Great Falls Tribune staff writer. His story was top of page one in Wednesday Great Falls Tribune.